[Shri P. V. Narasamha Rao]

with the same difficulties when we do the same exercise but then in a different atmosphere. Perhaps what did become an obstacle yesterday may not become an obstacle tomorrow or at least such an insurmountable obstacle. There is always a difference in the intensity of a particular problem when circumstances change. I find today that every party in India and the people in general in India do not want the continuance of this conflict. Neither the Hindus want it, nor the Muslims want it, nor the Christians want it, nobody wants it except the enemies of India. No one in India would like to oblige the enemies of India by doing anything or saying anything which will continue this agony for the whole nation. So, I would like to submit, Madam, that the time is ripe, the atmosphere is very favourable and this is the time when we would really pick up threads and see what we can do if we cannot solve our problems ourselves. I am afraid no one is going to solve them for us. It is I who suffer; it is this nation which suffers; it is this country which suffers and we cannot blame anyone else! There is no British Government to be blamed today. Therefore, I would like to say that I have taken note of all the suggestions that have been given I have made a categorical statement about certain doubts being raised. I think this is the first step in the new chapter being opened and I want, I request, I implore the Members to see that this task which is being taken up in a different atmosphere today succeeds and we are rid of this agony for the nation. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, statement by the Agriculture Minister.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri H Hanumanthappa) in the Chair]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Price Policy for Raw Jute for 1992-93 Season

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Sir, the Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for TD-5 grade of raw jute in Assam for the year 1992-93 season at Rs. 400 per quintal. This marks an increase of Rs. 25 per quintal over the price fixed for the last year. The corresponding prices for other varieties and grades of raw jute shall be fixed by the Jute Commissioner of India, Ministry of Textiles, in the light of normal market price differentials.

The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will undertake price support operation in raw jute as and when required. The Corporation would take its decision in respect of jute transactions on a commercial basis and make its purchase from the cultivators at prices that may be warranted by the prevailing market conditions, but in no case below the MSP.

The increase in Minimum Support Price is expected to encourage the farmers to invest more in jute cultivation and raise the production/productivty of raw jute.

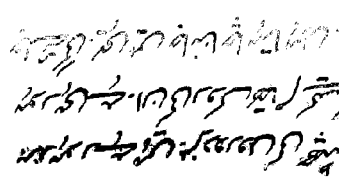
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, एक बात मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि गत वर्ष यह जो सपोर्ट प्राइस फिक्स की गई थी 1991-92 में वह 375 रु० थी और उसके पहले 320 रु० थी और उस समय कुल 55 रुपए बढ़ाए गए थे। इस बार आपने 25 रुपए बढ़ाए हैं। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस इनक्रीज का आधार क्या है?

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन (पश्चिमी बंगाल): पहली बात तो यह है गवर्नमन्ट ने मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस का एलान किया। यह जो एलान किया यह मार्च महीने में या महीने में होना चाहिए था। इतना जो डिले हुआ इसकी वजह से किसानों को अरबों रुपये का नुकसान पहुंचा है। प्राइसेज हैव गोन डाउन। और बहत से किसान जिन्होंने पाट की काश्तकारी पश्चिमी बंगाल में या दूसरे इलाकों में की थी वह तबाह हो गयी। इसलिए मुट्ठीभर लोगों ने बेइंसाफ फायदा उठाया। पाट के दाम बढ़ाये जिन लोगों ने खरीदारी की थी। इसकी वजह से जूट इंडस्ट्री में क्राइसेज देखी जा रही है। फिलहाल पश्चिमी बंगाल में पांच कारखाने बंद हैं, बिहार में एक कारखाना बंद है, आन्ध्र प्रदेश में एक कारखाने में लॉकआउट है और सबसे आखिर में जो खबर आई है त्रिपुरा में अगरतल्ला जूट मिल जो सरकारी कार-

खाना है वह बंद हो गया है। बंद हो जाने की वजह यह भी थी कि पाट के दाम बहुत ज्यादा थे। त्रिपुरा में जो गवर्नमेंट है वह उस मामले में डी. आई. एफ. आर. में भेजना चाहती है। इससे दो हजार लोगों की रोजी खतरे में जड़ गई है। जूट इंडस्ट्री के सिलसिले में गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया ने इंसाफ से काम नहीं लिया। पिछले महीने 29 तारीख को कंसलटेटिव कमेटी की मीटिंग हुई थी। उसमें हम लोगों ने बहुत जोर देकर कहा कि इसमें आखिर इतना डिले क्यों हो रहा है, मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस को अनाउन्स करने में? मार्च महीने में एलान करने के बजाय इस जुलाई महीने में क्यों एलान किया गया? चार महीने लेट क्यों किया गया? इस बीच में जो नुकसान पहुंच चुका है उस नुकसान को पूरा करने लिए गवर्नमेंट ने क्या कदम उठाये? दूसरे जो कारखाने बन्द हो रहे हैं, मजदूरों की छटनी हो रही है उनकी रोकथाम कैसे की जायेगी? यही मैं जानना चाहता हूं।

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन (पश्चिमी बंगाल): पहली बात तो यह है गवर्नमेंट ने मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस का एलान किया है। यह जो एलान किया यह मार्च के महीने के मीन या फरवरी के महीने में होना चाहिये था। इतना जो डिले हुआ इस की वजह से किसानों को अरबों रुपये का नुकसान पहुंचा है। प्राइसेज, हेवी गवर्नमेंट डाउन और बहुत से किसान जिन्होंने पाट की काश्तकारी पश्चिमी बंगाल में या दूसरे इलाकों में की थी वह तबाह हो गये। इस लिये मुट्ठी भर लोगों ने बे इंसाफ फायदा उठाया। पाट के दाम बढ़ाये जिन लोगों ने खरीदारी की थी इस की वजह से जूट इंडस्ट्री में

कर्मचारी देखी जा रही है। फिलहाल पश्चिमी बंगाल में पांच कारखाने बन्द हैं। बिहार में एक कारखाना बन्द है। आंध्र प्रदेश में एक कारखाने में लॉक आउट है और सब से आखिर में जो खबर आई है त्रिपुरा में अगरतला जूट मिल जो सरकारी कारखाना है वह बन्द हो गया है। बन्द हो जाने की वजह यह थी कि पाट के दाम बहुत ज्यादा थे। त्रिपुरा में जो गवर्नमेंट है वह उस मामले में डी. आई. एफ. आर. में भेजना चाहती है। इससे दो हजार लोगों की रोजी खतरे में जड़ गई है। जूट इंडस्ट्री के सिलसिले में गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया ने इंसाफ से काम नहीं लिया। पिछले महीने 29 तारीख को कंसलटेटिव कमेटी की मीटिंग हुई थी। उसमें हम लोगों ने बहुत जोर देकर कहा कि इसमें आखिर इतना डिले क्यों हो रहा है, मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस को अनाउन्स करने में? मार्च महीने में एलान करने के बजाय इस जुलाई महीने में क्यों एलान किया गया? चार महीने लेट क्यों किया गया? इस बीच में जो नुकसान पहुंच चुका है उस नुकसान को पूरा करने लिए गवर्नमेंट ने क्या कदम उठाये? दूसरे जो कारखाने बन्द हो रहे हैं, मजदूरों की छटनी हो रही है उनकी रोकथाम कैसे की जायेगी? यही मैं जानना चाहता हूं।



DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Minimum Support Price for jute for the year 1991-92 was announced in March, 1991. But this year the Government is announcing it in the month of July, that means a delay of four months. What are the reasons for this delay? The second point is: In Andhra Pradesh Mesta is the main variety. But the Minimum Support Price for Mesta has not been announced. What are the reasons for this delay? The third point is that the Minimum Support Price is too low to cover the cost of production. The CSCP did not take into account all the ingredients of the cost structure while computing the Minimum Support Price. It should be at least Rs. 650 per quintal for jute and Rs. 450 per quintal for Mesta. The next point—though it does not concern the Agriculture Ministry—the infrastructure of the Jute Corporation of India is inadequate to meet the Commitments of the Government to buy whatever quantity of jute is available at the Minimum Support Price. The existing purchase centres are not adequate. In addition to this there is a proposal to wind up 50 per cent of the purchasing centres. Again there is the problem of funds for the JCI. In these circumstances the announcement of a Minimum Support Price will not serve the purpose. So I would like to know whether the Government will increase the number of purchasing centres of JCI and provide the JCI with sufficient funds. My last point is: The Ministry of Agriculture is more concerned it knows about the factors influencing the cultivation of raw jute more than the Ministry of Textiles. I would like to know whether the Government would consider transferring the Jute Corporation of India from the Ministry of Textiles to the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. The jute industry in India is not only in crisis but this industry is in a period of recession because the natural fibre is being replaced by synthetic fibre. The hon. Minister has increased the price of jute by Rs. 25 per quintal over the last year's price. We know from the time of appreciation of the dollar—the dollar has been appreciated on rupee-dollar value by 20 per cent—the benefit of this appreciation of the dollar has not been going to the farmers but it has been going to the exporters. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would reconsider increasing this amount which had already been fixed. Secondly, I would like to know whether this industry is controlled by the Minimum Export Price (MEP) because this industry is the most exploited industry. It is a cottage industry where the farmers are growing jute and they do not get their dues. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether besides fixing the MEP, any other facilities would be provided to this community. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to ask certain questions on this very important aspect concerning the millions of farmers of this country. Firstly, I congratulate the hon. Minister for increasing the procurement price of jute by Rs 25 per quintal over the last year's price. This jute is mostly cultivated in the eastern parts of the counry. Now the price of TD-5 Grade of raw jute in Assam in the 1992-93 season is Rs. 400 per quintal. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any improved variety of jute is under cultivation in Assam, West Bengal or in other parts where jute is extensively cultivated. If you want to increase the yield or if you want to give proper remuneration to the farmers, it is quite essential that we should have the improved varieties and better fertilisation methods. I also want to know whether any research work is being carried on in this sector because it is very essential to give the small farmers and the poor farmers, who have been culti-

vating for a very long time, better varieties so that they can get a better yield and return from their produce. May I also know from the hon. Minister as to on what basis this price has been calculated at Rs. 400 per quintal? What is the cost of cultivation of jute per acre or per hectare? How much return will go to the farmers? We must see that while fixing the procurment prices, the farmers should be able to come above the poverty line. They should not remain below the poverty line. It is a very important question which I am asking. What is the nature of the research work which is being carried on to improve the jute fibre and its seeds? What are the new varieties of jute being cultivated and how much area is brought under jute cultivation? What are the procurement prices of other crops? I congratulate the hon. Agriculture Minister for thinking very seriously of developing the agricultural sector. And it has come in the newspapers that a new agricultural policy is gonig to be brought before Parliament. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the new agricultural policy by which the farmers of this country will get a better relief is being brought before Parliament If the new agricultural policy is adopted, the entire farming community of this country will get relief. With these words, I congratulate the hon. Minister for increasing the price of jute by at least Rs. 25 per quintal.

श्री रफीक आलम (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं उस इलाके से आता हूं जहां जूट पैदा होती है और जो बिहार का उत्तरी इलाका है । वहां पर पूर्णिया और किशनगंज जिलों में 80 परसेंट लोग जूट उगाते हैं । लेकिन जूट की कीमतें कम होने की वजह से बहुत कम लोग इसको उगा रहे हैं । मैं खुद एक काश्तकार हूं । कम से कम 500 रु० एक क्विंटल प्रोडक्शन में कीमत लगती है । 500 रु० से कम कीमत नहीं लगती है और उनको दिया जा रहा है 400 रु०, जिसकी वजह से उसकी पैदावार कम हो रही है, उसमें शिकेज हो रहा है । जितने जूट ग्रोवर्स हैं वे दूसरी काश्त की तरफ जा रहे हैं, जैसे धान हुआ, रेशम हुआ, इस तरफ जा रहे हैं । जूट का प्रोडक्शन कम होने की वजह से शिकेज हो रहा है ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जूट ग्रोवर के साथ पता नहीं, कोई कहता है कि टैक्सटाइल मिनिस्ट्री करेगी, कोई कहता है कि एग्रीकल्चर वाले करेंगे, उसका कोई मां-बाप नहीं है । जिसका नतीजा यह है कि जहां व्हीट को मिलता है, पैडी को मिलता है वहां जूट को नहीं मिलता और वे सफर करते हैं । किसी जमाने में इसे गोल्डन फाइबर कहा जाता था और यह हमारा फारेन एक्सचेंज अर्नर था । लेकिन आज इसकी हालत बहुत बुरी है । किसान की हालत सबसे ज्यादा खराब है । उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, जो मिडिल मैन हैं, उनको क्या फायदा होता है कि वे किसानों से इसे कम दाम पर खरीदते हैं और फिर उसको रख लेते हैं और जब ज्यादा दाम होते हैं तो उसको बेच देते हैं, एट दि कास्ट आफ कल्टिवेटर्स । इसलिए मैं एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब से कहूंगा वे भी एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट हैं कि इसको कम से कम 590 रुपया पर क्विंटल किया जाय ताकि किसान बच सके और उसको कम से कम इतना पैसा तो मिले जो उसकी लागत है ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि सीड काश्तकारों को नहीं मिलती । पुराने जमाने की जो सीड है वे वही लगाते हैं । अगर कहीं उनको मिलती भी है तो बहुत कम मिलती है । इसलिए मुझे एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर साहब से कहना है कि जहां वे पंजाब की व्हीट की तरफ देखते हैं वहीं हमारे बंगाल, बिहार और उड़ीसा की जूट की तरफ भी देखें ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बात का तवक्को रखता हूं कि आइंदा मिनिस्टर साहब इस बात का ख्याल रखेंगे और मेरी गुजारिश है कि इसे मिनियम 500 रुपया पर क्विंटल किया जाय । यह मेरी एग्रीकल्चलर मिनिस्टर से पर्सनल रेक्वेस्ट किसानों की तरफ से है ।

شری رفیق عالم "بہار": اپ سبھاادھیکش مہودے۔ میں اس علاقے سے آتا ہوں جہاں جوٹ پیدا ہوتا ہے اور جو بہار کا اتری علاقہ ہے۔ وہاں پر پورنیا اور کشن گنج ضلعوں میں ۸۰ پرسینٹ لوگ جوٹ اگاتے ہیں۔ لیکن جوٹ کی قیمتیں کم ہونے کی وجہ سے بہت کم لوگ اس کو اگا رہے ہیں۔ میں خود ایک کاشتکار ہوں۔ کم سے کم ۵۰۰ روپے ایک کوئنٹل پروڈکشن میں قیمت لگتی ہے۔ ۵۰۰ روپے سے کم قیمت نہیں لگتی ہے اور ان کو دیا جا رہا ہے۔ ۴۰۰ روپے۔ جس کی وجہ اس کی پیداوار کم ہو رہی ہے۔ اس میں سیکریفیس ہو رہا ہے جتنے جوٹ گودورس ہیں۔ وہ دوسری کاشت کی طرف جا رہے ہیں جیسے دھان ہوا۔ ریشم ہوا۔ اس طرف جا رہے ہیں جوٹ کا پروڈکشن کم ہونے کی وجہ سے سیکریفیس ہو رہا ہے۔

دوسری بات یہ ہے کہ جوٹ گودور کے ساتھ پتہ نہیں۔ کوئی کہتا ہے کہ کنٹرول منڈی کرے گی کوئی کہتا ہے کہ ایگریکلچر والے کریں گے۔ اس کا کوئی ماں باپ نہیں ہے۔ جس کا نتیجہ یہ ہے کہ جہاں وہیٹ کو ملتا ہے۔ بیڑی کو ملتا ہے وہاں جوٹ کو نہیں ملتا اور وہ سفر کرتے ہیں۔ کسی زمانہ میں اس کو گولڈن فائبر کہا جاتا تھا اور ہمارا فارن ایکس چینج ارنو تھا۔ لیکن آج اس کی حالت بہت بری ہے۔ کسان کی حالت سب سے زیادہ خراب ہے اپ سبھا ادھیکش جی۔ جو منڈل میں ہے۔ ان کو کیا فائدہ ہوتا ہے کہ وہ کسانوں سے اسے کم دام میں خریدتے ہیں اور پھر اس کو رکھ لیتے ہیں اور جب زیادہ دام ہوتے ہیں تو اس کو بیچ دیتے ہیں۔ ایٹ دی کاسٹ آف کلٹی ویٹر" اس لئے میں ایگریکلچر منسٹر صاحب سے کہوں گا کہ وہ بھی ایگریکلچر سٹ ہیں کہ اس کو کم سے کم پانچ سو روپے پر کوئنٹل کیا جائے تاکہ کسان بیچ سکے۔ اور اس کو کم سے کم اتنا پیسہ تو ملے جو اس کی لاگت ہے۔

دوسری بات یہ کہ سیڈ کاشتکاروں کو نہیں ملتی۔ پرانے زمانے کی جو سیڈ ہے وہ وہی لگاتے ہیں۔ اگر کہیں ان کو ملتی بھی ہے تو بہت کم ملتی ہے۔ اس لئے مجھے ایگریکلچر منسٹر صاحب سے کہنا ہے کہ جہاں وہ پنجاب کی

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

ڈیمیٹ کی طرف دیکھتے ہیں وہی ہمارے بنگال۔ بہار اور اڑیسہ کی جوٹ کی طرف بھی دیکھیں۔

ان الفاظ کے ساتھ میں اس بات کی توقع رکھتا ہوں کہ آئندہ منسٹر صاحب اس بات کا خیال رکھیں گے اور میری گذارش ہے کہ اسے مینیمم پانچ سو روپے پر کنٹرول کیا جائے۔ یہ میری ایگریکلچر منسٹر سے پرسنل ریکویسٹ کسانوں کی طرف سے ہے۔

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, in this brief statement, the hon. Minister in the first paragraph has said what he has done for the farmers and in the third paragraph of the same page, the Minister expects what farmers should do for the jute cultivation. Sir, I believe that too little has been done for the farmers and the Minister is expecting too much. In fixing the minimum support price for the farmers' produce, which is a good policy, the Minister has done it for one State—only for the State of Assam. I don't know why. The statement says that the minimum support price for TD-5 grade of raw jute in Assam for the 1992-93 season is Rs. 400 per quintal. Now the statement reads that it has been done only for one State. If the Minister is saying 'no' and if he says that it is for the whole country, then why has he mentioned only about one State? And it is done only for one variety—one variety of jute. Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Minister that many times, it has been seen that the minimum support prices had been fixed -- I come from a rural area of western Uttar Pradesh. I have seen that the minimum support prices were fixed for sugar-cane but the mill owners, the factory owners did not buy sugar cane because the condition of the industry was not good. The same is happening now in the jute industry. It is only at the producers' level that the condition of the jute industry or the jute trade or jute production has got to be looked into. The hon. Minister should make some exercise and coordinate with other Ministries also because if there is no demand, there is no buyer even if the minimum support price is fixed. The whole jute industry is in a very bad shape. The whole marketing of jute products, nationally and internationally, is in a bad shape. Jute products have to compete with other products and about the financial position of the mills, I know personally number of jute mills today... (*interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Don't go to the industrial side. Go only to the production side. Your time is over. I am just reminding you that your time is over. Please ...

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: I appreciate the concern and the move of the hon. Minister for Agriculture to do something for the farmers. But what he has done, I don't think, is in itself going to do any good to the jute growers in this country.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया : (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से सिर्फ इतना जानना चाहता हूं कि मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस तो जो भी डिविलेयर होता है, हर साल यहां करते हैं, इस बार कुछ देरी की है, पर सबसे बड़ी जो जरूरत है जूट उत्पादकों को मार्किटिंग की है, क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई कम्प्रीहेंसिव पालिसी जूट उत्पादकों के लिए लाने जा रहे हैं जिसमें मार्किटिंग का और एक्सपोर्ट पोटेंशियल्टी का बन्दोबस्त भी रहेगा। आज देखने में यह आता है कि जूट की जो बढ़िया चीजें बनती हैं जूट के फाइबर्स से बनती हैं वह टैक्सटाइल मिनिस्ट्री के तहत आती है। जूट ग्रोअर्स का जो काम करने का क्षेत्र है, उनका मेसेज गांवों तक अभी नहीं पहुंचा है, वह चीजें शहरों में बन रही हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या कृषि मंत्रालय कोई ऐसी पालिसी लाने जा रहा है जिससे उनको बेसिक इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और ट्रेनिंग गांवों में ही उपलब्ध हो ताकि यह चीजें गांवों में ही बनाई जा सकें ? इस पर मैं स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूं।

SHRI DAVID LEDGER (Assam): Sir it is a good thing that the Minimum Support Price for TD-5 grade of raw jute in Assam has been fixed at Rs. 400/- per quintal for the current year. At the same time, Sir, I would like to draw the atention of the honourable Minister to the fact that the cultivation of jute has gone down in some of the jute-growing districts of Assam like Nowgong and Barpeta and this is precisely because of the absence of adequate number of jute mills despite the presence of a viable market.

Sir, the late Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, when he was the President of India, laid the foundation-stone for a jute mill in Barpeta district. More than two decades have gone by and yet that jute mill has not come into being at all.

Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether he will consider setting up of jute mills in these districts, especially in a district like Barpeta which grows the maximum quantity of jute in the State of Assam and which, incidentally, does not have even a single jute mill. I would like to know whether he will do this, if not on a large-scale basis, at least on a medium or small-scale basis, to provide further encouragement and incentive to the jute growers of the State. Thank you Sir.

SHRI ASHIS SEN (West Bengal): Sir, in the very first paragraph it appears that there is a dichotomy between Jute Corporation and Jute Commissioner regading pricing of jute. It has been said in the statement that the Minimum Support Price for TD-5 grade of raw jute has been fixed at Rs. 400/- per quintal for the current year. I do not want to repeat what Dr. Jain has said that it should be in respect of all the States. But the real problem arises when it is said that the Jute Corporation will undertake price support operation in raw jute since that is under the Ministry of Textiles. I do not know what the purpose is of making a statement in regard to a matter which will be dealt with by another Ministry. I think better and more co-ordination is required if the Minister really thinks that the increase in the Minimum Support Price is expected to encourage the farmer to invest more in jue production an raise production and productivity of jute.

If the grower produces jute and brings it to the market, wherefrom is he going to get the price support? I am asking this because it is stated here that the JCI will undertake price support operation as and when required. But nothing is clear from this statement. Again, it is mentioned therein that the JCI will take a decision in respect of jute transactions on a commercial basis at prices as warranted by the prevailing market conditions. I do not know what he means by this. I feel that this Minimum Support Price will cease to have any relevance unless purchases are done in the market. We are all aware of the fact that the jute cultivators are suffering very much for want of buyers with the result that whatever they are expected to get because of this decision they will not get. Last year, if I am not incorrect, a huge amount Rs. 18 crores was sanctioned to the Jute Corporation of India for the purchase of raw jute from the cultivators. What has happened to that? According to my information, only a small fraction of it has been utilised. The money was sanctioned for the jute cultivators but they were where they were, just because the Jute Corporation of India did not go in for market operations to purchase. I request the Minister that if he sincerely wants to do something for the people who are producing jute in the country, then he must come out and direct the Jute Corporation of India to take all the jute available in the market at the support price so that these producers of jute do not become victims of those who are running the mills because they are not buying jute. That is why I request the hon. Minister to see that his real purpose is served when he raises this minimum support price.

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, साढ़े 7 लाख हैक्टेयर में तो खेती होती ही है और जूट से बने हुए सामान का जो निर्यात किया जाता है वह 300 करोड़ के लगभग पहुंच चुका है ।

महोदय, 1989–90 में इसका दाम 295 रुपए था, 1990–91 में 320 रु० हो गया, 25 रुपए क्विंटल बढ़ गया और

1991–92 में आपने 55 रुपए बढ़ा दिया और 1992–93 में आप कह रहे हैं कि हम 25 रुपए बढ़ा रहे हैं । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि 1990–91 से लेकर 1991–92 तक 55 रुपए आपने बढ़ाया और उस समय उन सारी बातों को ध्यान में रखा, इनपुट के दाम किस तरह बढ़े उसको ध्यान में रखकर आपने बढ़ाया, यह बहुत अच्छी बात थी लेकिन 1991–92 में जो आपने दाम रखे थे 375 रुपए क्या उसके बाद से इनपुट्स के दाम घटे हैं ? अगर नहीं घटे हैं तो सरकार ने किस आधार पर केवल 25 रुपए बढ़ाया है । इसलिए माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरा आग्रह होगा कि किसानों के हित को ध्यान में रखते हुए और जूट इंडस्ट्री भारत की एक बड़ी इंडस्ट्री है इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए जिस तरह से आपने 55 रुपए बढ़ाया था 1991–92 और आज जब इनपुट्स के दाम बढ़े हैं तो इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए उसको किसानों के हित में बढ़ाने की कृपा करेंगे क्योंकि आप किसान परिवार से हैं और किसानों के बारे में सोचते हैं । इसलिए बहुत जरूरी है क्योंकि यह किसानों का सवाल है । अगर इस तरह से स्थिति रहेगी फिर तो इंडस्ट्री नीचे जाएगी, फिर किसानों का मन उत्पादन बढ़ाने की ओर नहीं जाएगा क्योंकि पिछले साल तो 55 रुपए किया इस बार 25 रुपए किया है । इसमें कोई तारतम्य दिखाई नहीं पड़ता है, कोई तालमेल नहीं है । इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरा कर जोड़, हाथ जोड़कर आग्रह है कि इस मामले में गम्भीरता से सोचें । गलती हुई है आपके मंत्रालय से या कहीं से इसलिए इसको बढ़ाने का कष्ट करें । यही आपसे कहना चाहता हूं ।

श्री संत प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मंत्री जी ने समर्थन मूल्य में जो 25 रुपए क्विंटल की वृद्धि की है उसका एक मात्र उद्देश्य है कि जूट की खेती करने वालों को प्रोत्साहन दिया है ताकि वे ज्यादा से ज्यादा लागत लगा सकें और उत्पादन तथा उत्पादकता बढ़ जाए । लेकिन खरीद के बारे में यह निश्चय नहीं किया कि जूट निगम किसानों से खरीदेगी । आपने यह कहा कि "कापोरेशन बुड टेक डिसिजन इन रिसपेक्ट आफजूट ट्रान्जक्शन" आपको कहना चाहिए था कि जूट निगम ने यह निर्णय लिया है । अगर निर्णय लेंगे तो कितने साल में लेंगे ? अगर 4–10 साल तक जूट निगम ने खरीद का निर्णय नहीं लिया तो यह पड़ा रहेगा, जूट नहीं बिकेगा । इसलिए मंत्री महोदय यह बताने का कष्ट करें यह निगम कब तक किसानों से जूट खरीद का निर्णय ले लेगा ?

श्री मोहम्मद अमीन : आप यह भी बता दें कि जूट निगम को कितना फंड किया गया है ।

उपसभापति (श्री हेच० हनुमनतप्पा) आपने बोल दिया है ।

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Vice-Chairman, hon. Members have asked certain questions. First was my friend here.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Malaviyaji.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Yes, also Shri Malaviyaji. They asked about the difference as to why it was Rs. 55 last year and Rs. 25 this year. I wish I could have raised a little more. Last year when we increased the price of other inputs by 30 per cent, I had to look into that also and that is why I raised it by Rs. 55. This year also I had to do a little more of canvassing to get even Rs. 25 and that is why it is 25 this year. This is in the case of other commodities also. It was done like this.

SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: But the prices have not come down.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I cannot raise the price otherwise. That is the problem.

My friends have asked me about the delay in announcement. There was a delay in the submission of the report by the CACP. It should have come earlier. It did not come due to some circumstances. As you know, there was a tragic incident. The CACP Chairman was murdered on the very day on which his

[Shri Balram Jakhar]

daughter was to be married. All these things contributed to this delay. Therefore, we got the report late. Nevertheless, we got it through the Cabinet and we have announced the price.

Members have asked about the Mesta price. They have asked: 'Why only Assam?. We fix the price like this. This is the tradition. This is the convention. The raw jute in Assam is of a special quality. The market support price in other TD-5 regions, i.e. in North Bengal, South Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, is always fixed by the Jute Commissioner of India. These are according to certain fixed criteria. They have always been doing it. There is no other problem.

In regard to the question of transfer from Textiles to Agriculture, it has to be done by the hon. Prime Minister. He has to take a decision. Not other-wise.

Then, we have the question of varieties. There are a number of varieties, lots of them. We are trying to develop many more good varieties. Our scientists are on the job. There is a problem in the case of jute. Jute has to face the competition from artificial fibre. Work is going on in this regard to help our farmers to the baest of our ability. I have asked my scientists to come up with more good varieties so that they can produce more and become competitive.

The other question which was asked was about the purchase by the Jute Corporation of India. I think this has been misunderstood. We have said: ...in no case below the minimum support price.' This is not the procurement price. This is the market support price. This is to ensure that the farmers do not have to sell in distress. If the price, at any given time, goes below the level of Rs. 400, the Jute Corporation of India is bound to purchase that. I have requested the Textile Ministry to do it in its care so that the farmers are not put to any sort of loss, at any given time. I would like to see that this thing goes on. I am sure, with the help of my friends here, we can do it.

In regard to the varieties, I have the list here. These are: Navin, Vasudev, Chetali, Vaishali, Padma, Reshma, Sonali, Sabuj Sona, Shyamli and Baldev (*Interruptions*)

बल देव तो बड़ तगड़ नाम है । मेरे नाम से जुड़ता जुड़ाता है ।

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Are these improved varieties?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We are trying to improve the varieties. The latest is JRO 524. Eighty per cent area, 8 lakh hectares, is under this.

Then, I was asked as to how we fix the price. I have given this quite a number of times before on the floor of the House. However, for the information of hon. Members, I can again mention the criteria, the principles, on the basis of which we fix the price. These are: Operational cost; Human labour—casual, attached and family; Bullock labour—Hired and owned; Machine labour—hired and owned; Seed; Fertiliser and manure; Insecticide; Irrigation charges: Interest on working capital Miscellaneous Fixed Cost; Rental value of owned land; Rent paid for leased—in land; Land revenue, cesses and taxes Depreciation on implements and farm buildings and Interest on fixed capital. There are the items of cost.

6.00 P.M.

Even the farm owner's own labour, his family labour are considered. In addition to that he has to be given somthing more so that he can sustain himself. That is why we want to do something in times to come so that there can be value addition to what he grows. Till today he is able to sustain, but that is not the only criteria for which he has to work. He must be rubbing his shoulders along with other sections of the society, for which we have to give something much more than what he gets now; for that we have to diversify his activities regarding the value addition in processing, in storage, in marketing, in transportation, everything which is to be looked after, and this has to start from the zero point now. So far, we had just been trying to feed ourselves in this country, but we

have been lacking in giving a real standard which a farmer needs in a rural area. If we do not do that, in times it might create an explosive situation because they will just come to cities and create slums. When they see on television the facilities that we enjoy in the cities, cars, roads, glittering lights and everything, they would also like to have some facilities in the villages. They cannot have those facilities unless we provide those facilities and opportunities and that can only be done when we can have agro-based industry. All that has to be done through a new agricultural policy which Yadavji asked. The blueprint for that is ready. It is there, being discussed, and I hope, pretty soon, it will be before you. I want to give a new shape to the agricultural policy and to the agricultural life in the countryside and to the rural people as such.

Thank you once again.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Are you going to bring it in this session or in the next session?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Jadhav, your questions have been answered. Yes, Mr. Amin.

SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: JCI has not been provided with any funds.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That has to be done by the Textiles Ministry. They can refer it to that Ministry.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at three minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 28th July, 1992.

MGIPMRND—L/ —405 R.S.—19-1-94— 400.